



TOWN OF OLD LYME

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Open Space Commission

Minutes – Regular Meeting

January 14, 2026, 5:00 P.M.

Mezzanine of the Memorial Town Hall

- I. **Call to Order:** Greg Futoma called the meeting to order at 5:01 P.M.
- II. **Attendance**

Present: Chair Gregory Futoma, Vice Chair Anne Redfield, Fred Behringer, Andrea Fenton, Evan Griswold, Russell Linderman, Christine MacGregor, Secretary Joan Meek, Bill Ruel

Absent: Maria Corrao Marchant

Guests: Karen Archer, Old Lyme Land Trust
- III. **Approval of December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Christine MacGregor made a MOTION to approve the December 10 meeting minutes. Evan Griswold SECONDED. Andrea Fenton and Fred Behringer ABSTAINED. None OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED.
- IV. **Open Space Business**
 - a. **Annual Meeting Schedule**

Christine MacGregor, Fred Behringer, and Greg Futoma's appointments will expire on January 31, 2026. The annual meeting schedule will be formalized in February.
 - b. **Stewardship**
 - i. **December Report**

Steward Peter Norris's December report is attached.
 - ii. **Second Steward**

The Commission discussed on-going recruitment to fill the current open Steward position .
 - c. **Town-wide Hiking Trail**

Members from Open Space and the Old Lyme Land Trust walked a portion of a trail on Land Trust property which will provide access to a cross-town trail system. Bill Ruel will continue to explore opportunities for trail connections with the Land Trust.
 - d. **Mapping**
 - i. **First Group of Maps**

Completed signage maps have been received and are ready for installation on Open Space property.
 - ii. **Kiosks – Signs and Kiosk Content**

Commission members will continue to work with Russell Linderman on standardizing kiosk appearance across Open Space trails.
 - iii. **Additional Maps**

The updated maps have been put on the website. The Commission discussed and will continue to explore map availability options for visitors at kiosks.
 - e. **Beavers**
 - i. **Whippoorwill Road**

Beavers have been active on the Bartholomew property. The beaver deceiver device continues to function properly.

ii. Ames Open Space

The culvert will be cleaned out in January, and Beaver Solutions will install a beaver deceiver device in the spring. Commission members will continue to monitor beaver activity in the meantime.

f. Ferry Landing Wildlife Refuge

i. 2026 Phragmites Treatment

Anne Redfield reached out to Nick McMahon from Pond and Lake Connection to discuss herbicide use and potential effects. Nick explained that the product used does not contain glyphosate, and future treatments should be minimal. The 2026 cost will be approximately \$2,000 for treatment, and \$500 for a permit from CT DEEP. Monies carried over from the 2025 budget will cover the permit. Joan Meek made a MOTION to extend phragmites treatment at Ferry Landing, and Christine MacGregor SECONDED. None OPPOSED. None ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED. Anne will reach out to apply for the permit.

g. RiverCOG Property Request

Eric Knapp forwarded an email to Greg Futoma from the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG), inquiring how Open Space properties are conserved. Margot Burns at RiverCOG created a list of current Open Space properties, as the organization plans to create a map of all conserved land in the region. Greg will follow up.

h. Community Outreach

i. Hikers' Happy Hours

The Commission and the Land Trust have decided on dates for the 2026 Hikers' Happy Hour. Open Space will host walks on May 6th and September 2nd, and the Land Trust will host on June 3rd and October 7th. Discussion followed on trails suitable for the hikes.

ii. LOLHS Wood Duck Nest

The Lyme-Old Lyme High School Environmental Club and several members from OS Commission built two wood duck boxes, one of which will be installed on Bartholomew in the spring, the second possibly on Ames property.

i. Indigenous Occupation Acknowledgement

Christine MacGregor has continued to work with the Commission and members of Tribal Council of the Nehantic Nation on an indigenous occupation acknowledgement which, once approved, will be put on the Open Space website, and possibly posted in some kiosks.

j. Conservation Organizations

i. Conservation Commission

1. New Mission Statement

The Conservation Commission published a new mission statement which Open Space members reviewed.

ii. Connecticut Land Conservation Council

1. Municipal Commission Affiliate Program

Greg Futoma met with Amy Patterson to discuss the exclusion of municipalities from council membership. Amy notified Greg of the Municipal Commission Affiliate Program. It is a \$250 membership for access to CT Land Conservation Council resources. The Commission agreed to become an affiliate.

V. New Business - N/A

VI. Adjourn: Anne Redfield made a MOTION to adjourn at 7:00 P.M. Fred Behringer SECONDED. None OPPOSED. None ABSTAINED. MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,
Jasmine Willis
Recording Clerk